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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,976	12/19/2001	Norihisa Fukayama	501.41004X00	1185

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ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP
1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET
SUITE 1800
ARLINGTON, VA 22209-9889

EXAMINER

VESPERMAN, WILLIAM C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2813

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/020,976

Applicant(s)

FUKAYAMA, NORIHISA

Examiner

William C. Vesperman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 01 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's filing of December 12, 2001.

Election/Restrictions

2. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Group I (Claims 1-11 are suggested)

A liquid crystal display device comprising a liquid crystal panel, a backlight which includes an optical sheet facing one main surface of the liquid crystal panel in an opposed manner, a mold case which houses the backlight therein, and a metal frame which forms a picture frame for exposing an effective display area of the other main surface of the liquid crystal panel and has side walls which are engaged with side walls of the mold case, wherein

a columnar member which settles the liquid crystal panel at a given position is formed on a periphery of the mold case, and

an opening is formed at a side portion of the optical sheet which corresponds to the periphery of the mold case, and the optical sheet is held on the mold frame by allowing the columnar member to pass through the opening.

Group II (Claims 12 – 16) are suggested)

A liquid crystal display device comprising a liquid crystal panel, a backlight which is arranged to face a first main surface of the liquid crystal panel in an opposed manner.

an optical sheet which is arranged between the first main surface of the liquid crystal panel and the backlight, a first frame which accommodates the backlight, and a second frame which is formed in a picture frame and covers a periphery of a second main surface of the liquid crystal panel which faces the first main surface and at least a portion of a side surface of the mold case, wherein

the periphery of the first frame includes a first pair of sides which face each other in an opposed manner and a second pair of sides which extend in the direction intersecting a first pair of sides and face each other in an opposed manner,

at least one first columnar member is mounted on one of a first pair of sides of the main surface of the first frame which faces the second frame in an opposed manner,

at least one second columnar member is mounted on one of a second pair of sides of the main surface of the first frame which faces the second frame in an opposed manner,

a first opening into which the first columnar member is fitted is formed in a periphery of the optical sheet which faces one of a first pair of sides of the first frame and a second opening into which the second columnar member is fitted is formed in a periphery of the optical sheet which faces one of a second pair of sides, and

a portion of the first columnar member which faces a side surface of the liquid crystal panel in an opposed manner is projected toward a side surface of the liquid crystal panel than other portion which is fitted into the first opening of the first columnar member.

Group III (Claims 17 – 20) are suggested)

A liquid crystal display device comprising a liquid crystal panel, a backlight which is arranged to face a first main surface of the liquid crystal panel in an opposed manner, an optical sheet which is arranged between the first main surface of the liquid crystal panel and the backlight, a first frame which accommodates the backlight, and a second frame which is formed in a picture frame and covers a periphery of a second main surface of the liquid crystal panel which faces the first main surface and at least a portion of a side surface of the first frame, wherein

the periphery of the first frame includes a first pair of sides which face each other in an opposed manner and a second pair of sides which extend in the direction intersecting a first pair of sides and face each other in an opposed manner,

at least one first columnar member is mounted on one of a first pair of sides of the main surface of the first frame which faces the second frame,

a projecting member which faces a side surface of the liquid crystal panel is mounted on one of a second pair of sides of the main surface of the first frame which faces the second frame in an opposed manner,

a fitting member which is fitted into a periphery of the optical sheet is mounted on the other of a pair of the first sides of the main surface of the first frame which faces the second frame in an opposed manner,

a first opening into which is fitted is formed in a periphery of the optical sheet which faces one of a first pair of sides of the first frame and a fitting portion into which the fitting member is fitted is the first columnar member formed in a periphery of the optical sheet which faces the other of a first pair of sides, and

a portion of the first columnar member which faces a side surface of the liquid crystal panel is more projected toward the side surface of the liquid crystal panel than other portion of the first columnar member which is fitted into the first opening.

Group IV (Claims 21 – 24) are suggested)

A liquid crystal display device comprising a liquid crystal panel, a backlight which is arranged to face a first main surface of the liquid crystal panel in an opposed manner, an optical sheet which is arranged between the first main surface of the liquid crystal panel and the backlight, a first frame which accommodates the backlight, and a second frame which is formed in a picture frame and covers a periphery of a second main surface of the liquid crystal panel which faces the first main surface and at least a portion of a side surface of the first frame, wherein

the periphery of the first frame includes a first pair of sides which face each other in an opposed manner and a second pair of sides which extend in the direction intersecting a first pair of sides and face each other in an opposed manner,

at least one first columnar member is mounted on one of a first pair of sides of the main surface of the first frame which faces the second frame in an opposed manner,

at least one second columnar member is mounted on one of a second pair of sides of the main surface of the first frame which faces the second frame in an opposed manner,

a first opening into which the first columnar member is fitted and formed in a periphery of the optical sheet which faces one of a first pair of sides of the first frame and a second opening into which the second columnar member is fitted is formed in a

periphery of the optical sheet which faces one of a second pair of sides of the first frame, and

the first columnar member and the second columnar member include portions which face the side surface of the liquid crystal panel in an opposed manner.

3. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claim is generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over

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the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William C. Vesperman whose telephone number is 571-272-1701. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl White, Jr. can be reached on 571-272-1702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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February 15, 2004

Carl Whitehead, Jr.
CARL WHITEHEAD, JR.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800